service conditions of defence personnel;

(b) whether Government are con sidering delinking of pay from the rank structure for boosting the morale of armed forces; and

(c) whether the Ministry of Defence has forwarded any proposal to the Ministry of Finance fo$_r$ Income-tax exemptions to armed forces personnel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) The following steps have been taken by Government recently to improve the service conditions of Defence peri nal;—

(i) As a result of two cadre reviews in 1981 and 1984. appointments have been upgraded without altering the total cadre structure of the three Services, and this has considerably improved the promotion prospects of Services officers.

(ii) The rates of various allowances and perquisites of the Armed Forces personnel were revised upwards in January, 1983. The initial/ Renewal.* Outifi|t Allowance, Kit Maintenance Allowance, Air Despatch Pay, Dip Money, Diving Allowance. Para Jump Instructor's Pay, were increased *by* 50 per cent. New concessions were also given. Free ration was allowed in peace areas also, to Service officers upto the rank of Colonel and equivalent. After further review in 1984. this facility was extended up to the rank of Brigadier and equivalent.

(b) The pay structure of the Armed Forces is at present under consideration of the Fourth Central Pay Commission, and its report is expected shortly. Further action can only be taken thereafter.

(c) As issues relating to income tax exemption are general in nature, the Ministry of Finance has been requested to place some suggestions made by the Ministry of Defence in this regard before the Fourth Central Pay Commission.

Representation against acquisition of land by! the Ministry of Defence near Pune

1395. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT;

SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have received, a representation from the cultivators of Ravet and Kivale villages in Pune district against the decision of the Defence Ministry to acquire irrigated land for defence projects;

(b) what is the area of defence land in and around Pune city and how much is lying unused;

(c) what are the reasons for acquisition of more land in view of existence of unused land; and

(d) whether Government propose to appoint a committee to go into the entire question of surplus land in Pune?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) and (c) Government have received a representation from the cultivators of Ravet and Kivale villages in Pune district against the purported decision of the Defence Ministry to acquire their lands for Defence Projects. There is no proposal, however, for the acquisition of these lands.

(b) The total area of Defence land in and around Pune city is 22823.99 acres and some portion out of this, is lying vacant.

(d) Government do not propose to appoint any such Committee.